

A. Background

BLM Office: Arctic Field Office LLAKF010

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: FF096741 and FF096866

Applicant: SAExploration Inc.
8420 Sandelwood Place, Suite 102
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
700 G Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dates of Proposed Activity: January 23, 2015 – Tundra Closure Spring 2015

Proposed Action Title/Type: **Water Withdrawal/Seismic Activity**

Description of Proposed Action: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Arctic Field Office (ArFO) completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) on December 23, 2014 which analyzed seismic activity for the winter of 2014-2015 within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A). Seismic Permits were then issued to SAExploration, Inc. (SAE) and ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. (CPAI) on January 7, 2015.

On January 12, 2015 SAE contacted the ArFO and requested to withdraw water from lakes within the project area (Figure 1) on lands managed by the BLM. Their original plan had been to melt snow for camp water, as noted in the EA. However, there is not sufficient snow for them to melt for the use of domestic water. On January 16, 2015 CPAI contacted the ArFO also with a request for water withdrawal (Figure 2) for use as camp water.

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1970 (NEPA) requires that Federal Agencies consider the consequences of an action on natural resources through the NEPA process. The information analyzed in the EA did not address water withdrawal; therefore a Document of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) is not an appropriate document for review of the proposed action. However, the proposed water withdrawal may be categorically excluded from NEPA under the category of no additional disturbances outside of the permit area.

DOI-BLM-AKF010-2015-0005-CX

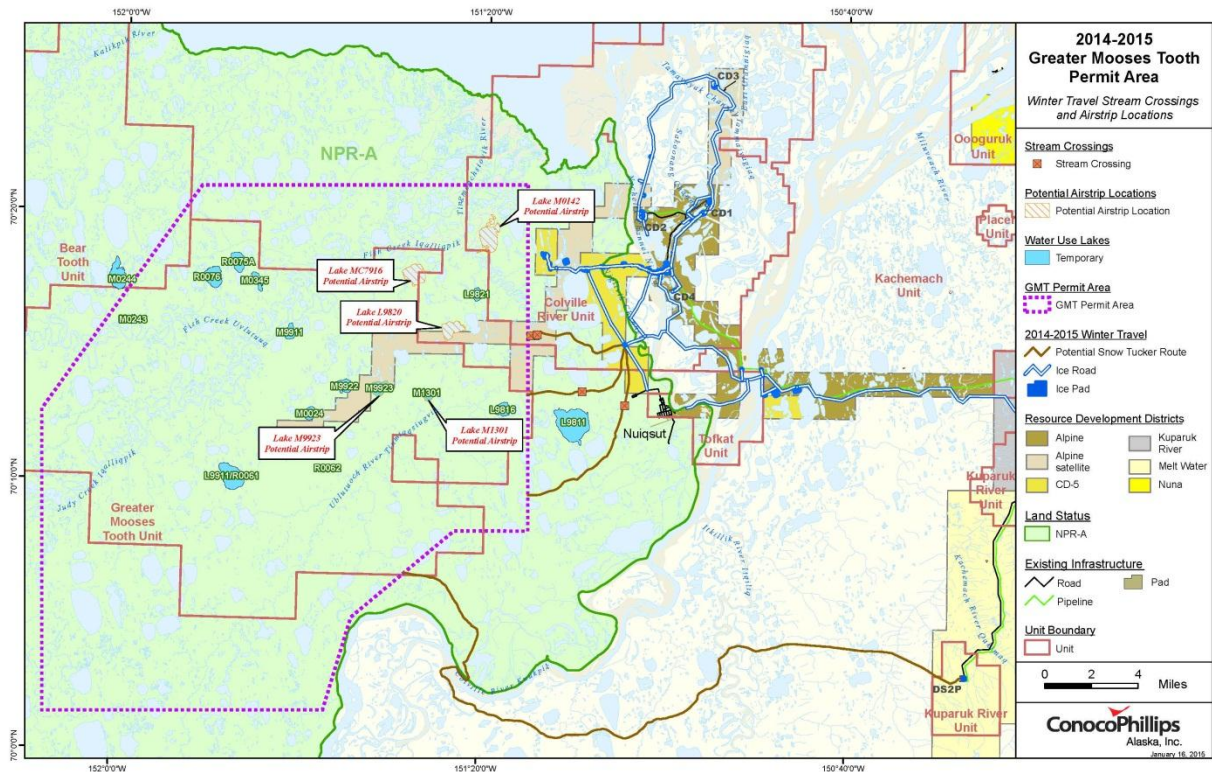


Figure 2: CPAI Map showing proposed water withdrawal lakes

SAE Legal Description:

Lake Name	Township	Range	BLM Managed Sections	Non BLM Managed Sections
L9811	10 North	4 East	16, 17, 18 BLM	24, 25, 29
L9911	9 North	1 East	1,2	--
	10 North	1 East	35,36	--
M0016	9 North	1 East	3,4,9,10	--
M0155	8 North	2 East	4,9	--
M0157	9 North	1 East	25, 36	--
M0704	9 North	4 East	6	--
	10 North	4 East	31	--
M0710	9 North	3 East	11-14	--
M0806	9 North	3 East	16,17,20,21	--
M0807	9 North	3 East	17,18,20	--
No Name A	8 North	4 East	None	22 State Land
No Name B	8 North	3 East	None	36 State Land
No Name C	8 North	5 East	None	13 State Land
No Name D	9 North	1 East	21, 22, 27, 28	--
No Name E	8 North	2 East	19,30	--
No Name F	7 North	5 East	None	5 State Land

No Name G	7 North	5 East	None	7 State Land
No Name H	7 North	4 East	None	35 State Land
No Name I	7 North	5 East	None	31 State Land
No Name J	6 North	4 East	None	6 State Land
No Name K	7 North	3 East	None	26 State Land
No Name L	7 North	4 East	None	4 State Land
No Name M	7 North	3 East	None	15 State Land
No Name N	7 North	3 East	None	28 State Land
No Name O	7 North	1 East	28,29,32-34	--
No Name P	7 North	1 East	10,11,14, 15	--
No Name Q	7 North	2 East	4,5	--

CPAI Legal Description:

Lake Name	Township	Range	BLM Managed Sections	Non BLM Managed Sections
L9911	9 North	1 East	1,2	--
	10 North	1 East	35,36	--
L9811	10 North	4 East	16, 17, 18, BLM	20, 21
R0062	10 North	2 East	34	--
M9923	10 North	2 East	12, 13 (Regional Selection)	--
M9922	10 North	2 East	11, 14, 15 (Regional Selection)	10
M0345	11 North	1 East	24	--
	11 North	2 East	19	--
M0244	11 North	1 West	13,24	--
	11 North	1 East	19	--
R0075A	11 North	1 East	13, 14, 23, 24	--
M0243	11 North	1 East	31	--
L9816	10 North	3 East	13, 14, 23	--
M0024	10 North	2 East	None	21
M1301	10 North	3 East	8, 16, 17	--
R0076	11 North	1 East	22, 23	--
M9911	11 North	2 East	32	--

SAE Water Withdrawal Table:

Water sources being requested for SAE seismic.

Site ID	Latitude (N) (NAD83)	Longitude (W) (NAD83)	Max Depth (feet)	Surface Area (acres)	Volume (MG)	Sensitive Fish Species Captured	Resistant Fish Species Captured	Allowable Volume per BMP B-2			Liquid Water Volume Requesting (MG)
								15% of Water Under 7 ft of Ice (MG)	30% of Water Under 5 ft of Ice (MG)	35% of Lake Volume (MG)	
BLM LAND											
L9811	70.20844	-151.16652	8.0	1034.0	1414.08	Broad w whitefish	Ninespine stickleback	0.94	--	--	0.025
L9911	70.17016	-151.78795	8.0	559.1	1585.78	none	Ninespine stickleback	--	59.08	--	0.025
M0016	70.16054	-151.87870	6.2	306.2	411.60	none	Ninespine stickleback	--	4.79	--	0.025
M0155	70.07250	-151.64894	6.1	441.2	292.29	not sampled	(stickleback expected)	--	0.51	--	0.025
M0157	70.09729	-151.77368	4.0	166.4	197.49	not sampled	not sampled	--	--	69.12	0.025
M0704	70.17143	-151.21788	6.0	276.2	245.04	none	Ninespine stickleback	--	0.56	--	0.025
M0710	70.13746	-151.27516	6.5	603.6	665.61	none	Ninespine stickleback	--	6.06	--	0.025
M0806	70.13345	-151.40545	7.1	481.2	700.08	none	Ninespine stickleback	--	32.18	--	0.025
M0807	70.12630	-151.44041	4.9	370.9	195.42	not sampled	not sampled	--	--	68.40	0.025
NoName - D	70 06.393N	151 53.191W	No Data	372.9	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	0.025
NoName - E	70 01.607N	151 44.491W	No Data	197.7	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	0.025
NoName - O	69 55.085N	151 54.024W	No Data	977.5	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	0.025
NoName - P	69 58.096N	151 50.001W	No Data	352.1	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	0.025
NoName - Q	69 59.474N	151 41.142W	No Data	247.1	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	0.025
NON-BLM LAND											
M0411 - A	70 01.985N	151 05.248W	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	0.025
M1416 - B	69 59.962N	151 15.279W	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	0.025
L0965 - C	70 02.924N	150 47.004W	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	0.025
NoName - F	69 59.775N	150 56.263W	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	0.025

NoName - G	69 58.594N	150 58.492W	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	0.025
NoName - H	69 55.327N	151 03.027W	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	0.025
NoName - I	69 54.724N	150 58.446W	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	0.025
NoName - J	69 54.396N	151 13.291W	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	0.025
NoName - K	69 56.237N	151 19.015W	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	0.025
NoName - L	69 59.576N	151 08.249W	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	0.025
NoName - M	69 57.523N	151 22.634W	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	0.025
NoName - N	69 56.307N	151 22.821W	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	0.025

CPAI Water Withdrawal Table:

Water sources being requested for CPAI NPR-A seismic.

Site ID	Latitude (N) (NAD83)	Longitude (W) (NAD83)	Max Depth (feet)	Surface Area (acres)	Volume (MG)	Sensitive Fish Species Captured ^a	Resistant Fish Species Captured ^b	Allowable Volume per BMP B-2			Liquid Water Volume Requesting (MG)	Ice Aggregate Volume Requesting (MG)
								15% of Water Under 7 ft of Ice (MG)	30% of Water Under 5 ft of Ice (MG)	35% of Lake Volume (MG)		
BLM LAND												
L9911	70.17016	-151.78795	8	559	1585.78	None	NS	--	59.08	--	0.05	0.00
L9811	70.20844	-151.16652	8	1034	1414.08	AG, BW	NS	0.94	--	--	0.05	0.00
R0062	70.17761	-151.61566	7.5	46.6	40.28	None	NS	--	0.07	--	0.05	0.00
M9923	70.22754	-151.5243	6.7	43.6	289.6	None	NS	--	4.69	--	0.05	0.00
M9922	70.22845	-151.58689	6.1	195.9	246.94	None	NS	--	1.32	--	0.05	0.00
M0345	70.29318	-151.75388	12.9	124.2	211.11	None	NS	--	19.61	--	0.05	0.00
M0244	70.29105	-152.00802	6.7	405.2	235.17	None	None	--	--	82.32	0.05	0.00
R0075A	70.30363	-151.78761	6.6	244.1	275.92	None	NS	--	3.40	--	0.05	0.00
M0243	70.2659	-151.9791	7.1	48.2	41.26	None	None	--	--	14.45	0.05	0.00
L9816	70.21639	-151.29693	7.6	197.8	158.44	None	None	--	--	55.45	0.05	0.00
M0024	70.21083	-151.65119	8.2	141	236.93	None	NS	--	11.34	--	0.05	0.00
M1301	70.2251	-151.4289	6.9	192.9	198.75	None	NS	--	3.00	--	0.05	0.00
R0076	70.29379	-151.83276	8	336	404.1	None	NS	--	17.67	--	0.05	0.00
M9911	70.26034	-151.68903	15.3	144	329.92	BW, LC	NS, AB	7.93	--	--	0.05	0.00

Notes:

MG = million gallons

-- = not estimated or not applicable

a. AG = Arctic grayling; BW = broad whitefish

b. AB = Alaska blackfish; NS = ninespine stickleback

B. Land Use Plan Conformance Review

The proposed action is in conformance with the following planning document: National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) dated November 2012 and associated Record of Decision dated February 2013.

The proposed action is in conformance with the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act, which allows for the authorization of uses consistent with the purposes of the Act.

C. Compliance with NEPA

The IAP/EIS Record of Decisions for the NPR-A developed stipulations and best management practices applicable to all activities in NPR-A. The stipulations and best management practices applicable to the proposed action will be provided, along with project-specific mitigation, to the applicant and are entitled: "Seismic Water Withdrawal Project Specific Stipulations".

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 2, Appendix 1, or 516 DM 11.9. Specifically, the proposed action meets the criteria for a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, BLM H-1790-1 National Environmental Policy Act Handbook Appendix 3 Departmental Categorical Exclusions.

"Amendments to existing rights-of-way, such as the upgrading of existing facilities, which entail no additional disturbances outside the right-of-way boundary."

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

The proposed action has been reviewed to determine if any of the exceptions described in 43 CFR 46.210 and 46.215, apply.

The proposed action will not meet any of the extraordinary circumstances listed below.

Extraordinary Circumstances	Yes	No
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
2.2 Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)].		X

2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
2.7 Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
2.8 Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
2.11 Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		X
2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		X

D. Approval and Contact Information

I considered the proposed action and have determined that there is no potential for significant impacts.

/s/
 Stacie McIntosh
 Authorized Officer, Arctic Field Office

1/23/2015
 Date

Contact Person:

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:

Donna Wixon
 Natural Resource Specialist
 Bureau of Land Management
 Arctic Field Office
 1150 University Avenue
 Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Phone: 907-474-2301
 Email: dwixon@blm.gov